

**IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A sliding member in which a sliding layer is provided on a surface of a base material formed of any of steel, stainless steel, copper-based alloy, aluminum-based alloy, and magnesium-based alloy, said sliding layer containing polybenzimidazole and 1 to 70 percent by volume of a solid lubricant, wherein the sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of bismuth or/and bismuth alloy.

2. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 1, wherein the surface of said base material is subjected to a chemical conversion coating, and said sliding layer is provided on the chemical conversion coated surface.

3. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 1, wherein said solid lubricant is formed of at least one kind of polytetrafluoroethylene, graphite, and molybdenum disulfide.

4. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 2, wherein said solid lubricant is formed of at least one kind of polytetrafluoroethylene, graphite, and molybdenum disulfide.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 2, wherein the sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of bismuth or/and bismuth alloy.

7. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 4, wherein the

sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of bismuth or/and bismuth alloy.

8. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 1, wherein said sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of an inorganic compound having Mohs' hardness of 4 or less.

9. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 2, wherein said sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of an inorganic compound having Mohs' hardness of 4 or less.

10. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 4, wherein said sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of an inorganic compound having Mohs' hardness of 4 or less.

11. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 7, wherein said sliding layer contains 0.1 to 10 percent by volume of an inorganic compound having Mohs' hardness of 4 or less.

12. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 1, wherein a bonding layer formed of a thermosetting resin is provided between said base material and said sliding layer.

13. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 2, wherein a bonding layer formed of a thermosetting resin is provided between said base material and said sliding layer.

14. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 7, wherein a bonding layer formed of a thermosetting resin is provided between said base material and said sliding layer.

15. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 11, wherein a bonding layer formed of a thermosetting resin is provided between said base material and said sliding layer.

16. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 1, wherein said sliding member is used for a swash plate of a swash plate type piston pump.

17. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 2, wherein said sliding member is used for a swash plate of a swash plate type piston pump.

18. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 7, wherein said sliding member is used for a swash plate of a swash plate type piston pump.

19. (Original) The sliding member according to claim 11, wherein said sliding member is used for a swash plate of a swash plate type piston pump.

20. (Currently Amended) The sliding member according to ~~claim 16~~claim 12, wherein said sliding member is used for a swash plate of a swash plate type piston pump.